

App. No. 10/536,590
Office Action Dated August 17, 2009

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended. The amendment to claim 1 generally tracks the Examiner's proposed revisions, and is supported for example, by previous claim 4. The revisions to the specification also track the changes proposed by the Examiner. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 5, 11-27 and 30-32 are pending.

Claims 1, 5, 11-15, 25-26 and 30-32 are rejected as being unpatentable over WO 02/078568 A1 (Browning). The features of claim 4, which was not included in this rejection, are now incorporated into claim 1. Claims 5, 11-15, 25-26 and 30-32 depend from claim 1. Therefore, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Claims 17-24 are rejected as being unpatentable over WO 02/078568 A1 (Browning) in view of EP 1022031 (Matsuda). The features of claim 4, which was not included in this rejection, are now incorporated into claim 1. Claims 17-24 depend from claim 1. Therefore, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Claim 16 is rejected as being unpatentable over WO 02/078568 A1 (Browning) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,854,381 (Jurgens). The features of claim 4, which was not included in this rejection, are now incorporated into claim 1. Claim 16 depends from claim 1. Therefore, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Claim 27 is rejected as being unpatentable over WO 02/078568 A1 (Browning) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,374,063 (Consolazio et al.). The features of claim 4, which was not included in this rejection, are now incorporated into claim 1. Claim 27 depends from claim 1. Therefore, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the attorney-of-record, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612) 455.3804.

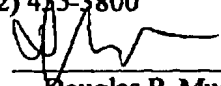


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Respectfully submitted,

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